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S/22239
19 February 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRALIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In accordance with paragraph 4 of United Nations Security Council resolution 678 (1990) I am writing to inform you of actions taken by the Australian Government, pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 of that resolution, to uphold and implement United Nations Security Council resolution 660 (1990) and subsequent resolutions.

On 17 January Australian armed forces in co-operation with those other States seeking to liberate Kuwait of occupying Iraqi forces and to restore the legitimate government of Kuwait were committed to participation in armed action necessary to implement resolution 660.

Any armed action by Australian forces seeks only to bring about the speedy withdrawal of Iraq's forces from Kuwait, restoration of the legitimate authorities in Kuwait and the restoration of international peace and security in the area.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter WILENSKI

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LETTER DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MAURITANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement issued on 15 February 1991 by the Mauritanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation concerning the situation in the Gulf region:

"The Islamic Republic of Mauritania welcomes the initiative taken on 29 Rajab A.H. 1411, corresponding to 15 February 1991, by the Revolution Command Council of the Republic of Iraq. It believes that the initiative will contribute to the restoration of law and justice in the region.

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania, which has constantly affirmed since the beginning of this crisis its commitment to the international rule of law and to peace and security for all the peoples of the region, has always rejected recourse to war.

Through this initiative, Iraq has just offered the international community the means of averting a catastrophe.

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania hopes that this opportunity will be seized by all the parties concerned, with a view to achieving a peaceful and lasting settlement of this crisis."

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Mohamedou OULD MOHAMED MAHMOUD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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S

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LETTER DATED 19 FEBRUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to request you to have circulated as a document of the Security Council of the United Nations the following information about the Soviet-Iraqi talks held in Moscow on 18 February 1991.

"During the talks with the personal representative of the President of Iraq, the Soviet side proceeded from the assumption that the current spiralling crisis in the Persian Gulf called for immediate and resolute measures to avoid further escalation of the conflict, to save thousands of lives, and to prevent the threat of disruption of the ecological balance of the whole region.

In the course of a prolonged and substantive exchange of views on the situation in the military-operations theatre and on the whole range of issues that brought about those operations, President Gorbachev proposed a plan of specific measures.

This plan is predicated on the necessity of strictly abiding by the mandate set forth in the resolutions of the Security Council regarding the Gulf crisis. The key element of the plan consists in securing a rapid start of a withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait, which would make it possible to put an immediate end to the bloodshed.

We hope that our proposals will be considered in a most serious manner. We are now awaiting a reaction from Baghdad, which we expect very soon. On the basis of that reaction, a substantive discussion of practical measures would be possible.

The current situation calls for a cautious, responsible approach. This is no time for loud and spectacular initiatives, but for a serious diplomatic process. The effectiveness of such a process will determine the prospects for a rapid movement towards political settlement on the basis of the decisions of the Security Council, with due regard for the important role of that body in maintaining international peace and security."

(Signed) Y. VORONTSOV

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Security Council

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LETTER DATED 19 FEBRUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a press statement, issued at Cairo on 15 February 1991 by a meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Arab Republic of Egypt, with regard to the communiqué of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council concerning Iraq's readiness to deal with Security Council resolution 660 (1990).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Amre M. MOUSSA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Press statement issued at Cairo on 15 February 1991 by a meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Arab Republic of Egypt

Meeting at Cairo on Friday, 15 February 1991, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Arab Republic of Egypt considered the statement issued by the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, as broadcast by Radio Baghdad, concerning the readiness of the Iraqi regime to deal with Security Council resolution 660 (1990). As is common knowledge, in its resolution 660, the Council demands that Iraq withdraw immediately and unconditionally all its forces from the State of Kuwait to the positions in which they were located on 1 August 1990. The Ministers view the Iraqi proposal, which contains unacceptable conditions that are not in accord with the resolutions of the Security Council, as lacking in seriousness. The proposal further includes new conditions.

The Iraqi proposal hampers the implementation of the resolutions of the Security Council, which stipulate a complete and unconditional withdrawal from the State of Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy thereto, and it is, accordingly, to be rejected as a whole and in its various aspects.

The Ministers meeting at Cairo call upon the Iraqi regime to withdraw its forces immediately from the State of Kuwait and to restore legitimacy thereto in implementation of the resolutions of the Arab Summit, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Security Council, in compliance with inter-Arab and international legitimacy and in accordance with the will of the international community.